

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 L-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CG-00 DOTE-00

COME-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 /051 W

----- 129363

R 270652Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5370

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, AS, US

SUBJ: SHIPPING: NO DECISION YET ON RESOLVING PROBLEM OF TRADE
PRACTICES ACT, PART IV

REF: A. CANBERRA 1682 NOTAL B. CANBERRA 1264 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY: TRANSPORT HAS ADVISED MINISTER JONES OF TP ACT
PROBLEM RE IN-BOUND CONFERENCES AND IS AWAITING HIS DECISION ON
REMEDY. BRITISH HAVE REGISTERED CONCERN. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WE
NOT FORMALLY EXPRESS OUR CONCERN FOR NOW TO GIVE GOA FURTHER
TIME TO SORT THINGS OUT. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER AGAIN CALLED ROWLAND, DEPT. OF TRANSPORT,
MARCH 27, TO ASCERTAIN CURRENT STATUS PROBLEM OF APPLICABIL-
ITY OF PART IV OF TP ACT TO IN-BOUND CONFERENCES. ROWLAND
SAID THAT DOT HAS GIVEN TRANSPORT MINISTER JONES SUBMISSION
EXPLAINING PROBLEM AND STATING OPTIONS OPEN TO GOA TO RESOLVE IT.
DOT NOW AWAITING JONES' RESPONSE, WHICH ROWLAND HOPES WILL BE
RECEIVED NEXT WEEK.

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3. IN REPLY TO OFF-THE-RECORD QUERY ABOUT ADVISABILITY OF USG FORMALLY EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER PROBLEM AT THIS STAGE, ROWLAND STATED PERSONAL VIEW THAT USG SHOULD WAIT UNTIL JONES DECIDES HOW TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM AND THEN MAKE DEMARCHE IF WE DISAGREE WITH THAT DECISION.

4. BRITISH COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR FULLERTON, WHO HAS FREQUENTLY DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH EMBASSY, TOLD US THAT BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION REGISTERED HMG'S CONCERN OVER PROBLEM AND POSSIBLE DELAY IN RESOLVING IT TO HALTON, SECRETARY, DOT, MARCH 24. FULLERTON ASKED IF USG PLANS SIMILAR DEMARCHE, AND WE TOLD HIM THAT ROWLAND KNOWS OF OUR CONCERN ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT EXPRESSED IT OFFICIALLY.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: CLEARLY ROWLAND AND HALTON REALIZE THAT PROMPT REMEDY TO PROBLEM IS ESSENTIAL IF GOA'S LEGISLATIVE ERROR IS NOT TO BE EXPLOITED BY TROUBLEMAKERS. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT BE SURE THAT JONES, WHO SHOULD BE THE MINISTER TO PRESS FOR CORRECTIVE TP AMENDMENT OR SOME OTHER REMEDY, REALIZES NEED FOR PROMPT ACTION. SINCE PROBLEM STEMS FROM EMBARRASSING DRAFTING ERROR AND NOT GOA POLICY DECISION, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WE NOT FORMALLY EXPRESS OUR CONCERN FOR THE MOMENT BUT GIVE GOA FURTHER TIME TO SORT THINGS OUT. HOWEVER, IF GOA PROVES TO BE DILATORY, WE SHOULD RECONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF MAKING A REPRESENTATION ON THIS MATTER.
HARROP

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